

final moments before he passed away on November 26.

At his memorial service in Camden, Sgt. Smith's coffin, surrounded by red, white, and blue flowers, was placed at the front of his high school gymnasium. Throughout the service and in the aftermath of his son's passing, Donald Ray Smith described the outpouring of love from the community as "remarkable." It was a testament to the gratitude of a community fully aware of the ultimate sacrifice paid by their fallen Arkansas soldier in the name of freedom.

In the 24 years Michael Smith was with us, the impressions he made and the lives he touched will never be forgotten. Although he will be deeply missed by us all, it is his selflessness, his courage, and his heart that we will remember when we think of him. My thoughts and prayers go out to Donald Ray, Deborah, Lai, and the rest of his family, friends and loved ones.

SERGEANT JEREMY R. WRIGHT

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I speak today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude in honor of the life of a brave young man from Shelbyville, IN. SGT Jeremy R. Wright, 31 years old, died on January 3 during a patrol when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by a roadside bomb near Kabul. With his entire life before him, Jeremy risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 1992 graduate of Southwestern High School, Jeremy went on to attend Wabash College where he won the NCAA Division III Great Lakes regional title in 1993 for distance running and graduated with honors as a chemistry major. Jeremy joined the Army in 2002, pursuing his long-time fascination with the military. Like most things Jeremy set his mind to, he was successful in his military career, becoming a member of the elite Green Beret. Wabash spokesman Jim Amidon shared memories of the former student with the Associated Press, saying his "rare combination of intellect, courage, discipline and passion made him a naturally brilliant distance runner . . . Those are the same qualities that made him a fine soldier, too, the kind of officer our country needs in the military."

Jeremy was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, Fort Lewis, WA. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Jackie Nickel and his father, Dale Wright.

Today, I join Jeremy's family, his friends and the entire Shelbyville community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Jeremy, a memory that will burn

brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Jeremy was known for his dedication to family and his love of country. Today and always, Jeremy will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Jeremy's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Jeremy's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jeremy R. Wright in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Jeremy's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Jeremy.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY EHRENFREUND

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor and pay tribute to a distinguished individual, Jerry Ehrenfreund, who served as Chief Clerk in the Office of Printing Services from 1985 to 1990.

Mr. Ehrenfreund spent a lifetime in dedicated service to his country, serving in the Army and working for the Federal Government. In 1969, he began working for the Government Printing Office and worked on the staff which compiled the Federal Register. Shortly thereafter he was detailed to the Senate where he became the staff printer on the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs and, later, the staff printer for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Ehrenfreund truly exemplified the positive work ethic and dedication to his job and was named the Chief Clerk in the Office of Printing Services in 1985. In 1990 he retired from the staff of the Secretary of the Senate and retired to Katy, TX.

Mr. Ehrenfreund passed away on July 14, 2004. His work in the Senate deserves special recognition, and I know

my colleagues will join me in honoring him. Mr. Ehrenfreund was held in high regard by all who knew him and will be deeply missed by his wife of 48 years, Sylvia, their two daughters and five grandchildren.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I recognize the fundraising efforts of the National Funeral Directors Association NFDA. The NFDA is the largest funeral service organization in the world and is dedicated to funeral service professionalism and quality.

The recent tsunami tragedy in South Asia has created a desperate need for monetary donations to charitable organizations participating in the relief effort. In a direct response to President Bush's nationwide appeal to assist tsunami victims, the NFDA has established the Funeral Service Asian Relief Fund. The NFDA has asked its members, funeral service suppliers, and domestic and international allied organizations to contribute to this endeavor. All contributions will be directed to an appropriate charitable organization.

The generosity and caring of the funeral service industry was demonstrated during past humanitarian crises such as the September 11th terrorist attack and the Oklahoma City bombing. This new effort further proves the commitment of the NFDA to utilizing its resources for the benefit of those experiencing great hardship. I commend the charity of the members of the National Funeral Directors Association during this time of need in South Asia.●

HAYES CENTER AND VILLA HAYES

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, Hayes Center is in the southwestern part of my home state of Nebraska. Villa Hayes is in the southwestern part of the Republic of Paraguay. I rise today to highlight the unusual connection between these two towns, named for the same American President, which have forged strong ties despite the distance between them. Thanks to a historian's efforts, these towns share a bond that affirms the power of international friendship and the enduring legacy of President Rutherford B. Hayes.

In 1878, President Hayes arbitrated a boundary dispute between Paraguay and Argentina, awarding new territory to Paraguay. The country named a department and a city, near the national capital of Asuncion, for him. John Fatherley of Chicopee, MA, is a historian who studies President Hayes. During college studies in Paraguay, he learned about the country's respect for our 19th President, whose decision in 1878 enlarged Paraguay by 30 percent.